

July 15, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

5200 '99 JUL 20 PM 2:34

Re: Docket # 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production,
Processing, and Handling of Food"

To whom it may concern:

I support the recommendation by the Center for Science in the Public Interest regarding labeling of irradiated foods: "any foods, or any foods containing ingredients that have been treated by irradiation, should be labeled with a written statement on the principal display panel indicating such treatment. The statement should be easy to read and placed in close proximity to the name of the food and accompanied by the international symbol. If the food is unpackaged, this information should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view and adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale."

Like any other labels, irradiation labels are required by the FDA to be truthful and not misleading. The terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" should be retained, as should the use of the radura symbol. Phrases including the word "pasteurization" are misleading because pasteurization is a completely different process of rapid heating and cooling.

In its initial petition, the FDA concluded that irradiation was a "material fact" about the processing of a food, and thus should be disclosed. The material fact remains, therefore labeling should remain and not be allowed to expire in the future. With the FDA as their advocate, the American consumer has come to expect and rely on full and truthful product labeling in making food choices. I urge you not to fail the American people now. Retain the current terminology of "treated with radiation" or "treated with irradiation," and the use of the radura symbol on all irradiated foods.

Sincerely,

Mari Dolmas

Mari Dolmas
Fort Collins, CO

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